

AGENDA ITEM VII A

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

EDUCATION WEEK's "QUALITY COUNTS 2000" REPORT

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EDUCATION WEEK's "QUALITY COUNTS 2000" REPORT

STAFF COMMENTS

On January 6, 2005, *Education Week* issued its annual Quality Counts Report and announced that Louisiana was ranked #1 in the United States in the area of *Efforts to Improve Teacher Quality*. Louisiana was the only state in the nation to be awarded a grade of "A" in this category.

Louisiana received the following grades and rankings in the other three categories: *Standards and Accountability*, Grade = A, Ranking = 2nd; *Resources: Spending*, Grade = B, Ranking = 19th; and *School Climate*, Grade = D+, Ranking = 50th

The first place rating for *Efforts to Improve Teacher Quality* was a direct result of the authentic collaboration that has occurred between the Board of Regents, Governor, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/Louisiana Department of Education, University Systems, public and private universities, and schools. It is also a direct result of the successful implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence and the successful implementation of the activities supported by the Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant. The ranking validates the importance of the redesign that has occurred within every university in Louisiana as university administrators and faculty have worked with school and district personnel to enhance the quality of teacher preparation programs and the quality of teachers across the state.

Several factors that had an impact upon the #1 rating were the following:

1. All grades 6-12 teachers must now complete a major and minor in content areas within redesigned teacher preparation programs.
2. All grades 4-8 teachers must now complete two content area minors within redesigned teacher preparation programs.
3. All redesigned teacher preparation programs are aligned with state/national standards for students and teachers.
4. All redesigned teacher candidates are required to complete 180 hours of field-based experiences in addition to student teaching.
5. A comprehensive Teacher Preparation Accountability System is used by the Board of Regents to evaluate all teacher preparation programs.
6. A Value-added Teacher Preparation Program Assessment Model is being piloted by the Board of Regents.

Members of the Board of Regents will be provided additional information about the *Education Week* report and the ranking at the January meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VII B

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

**EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION
PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND
EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

AGENDA ITEM VII B

TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Redesigned alternate certification programs, regular undergraduate teacher preparation programs, graduate programs for teachers, and graduate programs for educational leaders were submitted to the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during November 2001 for Cycle One Evaluations, April 2002 for Cycle Two Evaluations, September 2002 for Cycle Three Evaluations, February 2003 for Cycle Four Evaluations, March 2004 for Cycle Five Evaluations, and September 2004 for Cycle Six Evaluations. These programs were assessed by external evaluators and reports which contained the recommendations of the external evaluators were disseminated during January 2002, June 2002, December 2002, April 2003, April 2004, and December 2004.

STAFF COMMENTS

During the March 2004 external evaluation process, the external evaluators recommended that the following Grades K-12 programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe be recommended for approval without stipulations: Vocal Music Education, Instrumental Music Education, Vocal and Instrumental Music Education, French Education, and Spanish Education. The University of Louisiana System concurred with this recommendation and requested during January 2005 that the programs be approved by the Board of Regents.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the following programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe: Vocal Music Education – Grades K-12 (CIP Code 13.1312); Instrumental Music Education – Grades K-12 (CIP Code 13.1312); Vocal and Instrumental Music Education – Grades K-12 (CIP Code 13.1312); French Education – Grades K-12 (CIP Code 13.1324); and Spanish Education – Grades K-12 (CIP Code 13.1330).